

Mr. Speaker, let us give praise to these soldiers and their families for their service and their sacrifice. They deserve as much.

CONNECTICUT PRE-ENGINEERING PROGRAM

(Ms. ESTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a group of five talented students from Danbury. These students, part of the Connecticut Pre-Engineering Program at Danbury High School, won Best in State in the second annual Verizon Innovative App Challenge.

With the guidance of their teacher advisers, Jack Tracey and Linda Kimble, they created an app, Mediminder, that reminds people to refill their prescriptions and provides them with their doctor's contact information.

As a member of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee and as a cofounder of the congressional student app competition, I am a strong believer in hands-on opportunities like this. In fact, this weekend, I will be hosting an app workshop in Waterbury.

When students create and design their own app, they transform from passive consumers of technology into active innovators, problem solvers, and entrepreneurs.

Tommy, Anjali, Lexie, Steven, and Sameena, I applaud your innovative spirit. Congratulations on winning Best in State. I can't wait to see what you come up with next.

HONORING DR. FERNANDEZ FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO MEDICINE IN SOUTH FLORIDA

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the contributions of Dr. Bernardo "Bernie" Fernandez to medicine in south Florida.

Dr. Fernandez will soon assume the post of CEO of Baptist Medical Health Group, and he is an accomplished doctor with a record of success as CEO of Cleveland Clinic Florida. His leadership in the field of medicine earned him the distinction of being named one of America's best doctors and the title of Fellow at the American College of Physicians and the Society for Vascular Medicine and Biology.

Dr. Fernandez has given back to the south Florida community by actively participating in charitable groups and supporting our shared alma mater, the University of Miami. However, none of this is done in a vacuum and is only accomplished with the love and support of his wife, Rosy, and their children, Steven and Cristina.

Again, I congratulate Bernie for his leadership, and I know that our south

Florida community will continue to benefit from his more than 25 years of experience. Congratulations to Bernie.

HEALTH INSURANCE SIGN-UPS SURGE

(Mr. COURTNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, these are heady days in the State of Connecticut where both the UConn men and women are in the Final Four, shocking the world.

Mr. Speaker, there has also been another team working hard in the State of Connecticut. That is the assisters, navigators, insurance agents, community health centers, faith-based groups, and call center employees who have been enrolling Connecticut citizens in the Affordable Care Act at a frantic pace.

As of Monday night, they had enrolled 197,000 Connecticut citizens. Even though the target that HHS gave last summer was only 100,000, they doubled the target that was given to the State of Connecticut. Why? Because these assisters, like Marianne Martinez, said:

I heard a lot of stories from people who hadn't had insurance or seen a doctor in years. Some people came in expecting insurance would cost them \$500 a month, and it turned out to be only \$40 or \$100. It was a breath of fresh air.

Congratulations to all those individuals who are helping, helping people in this country get access to health care. And go, Huskies.

ADMINISTRATION RELEASES DANGEROUS CRIMINAL ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the administration claims historic record deportation numbers, but a recent report by the Center for Immigration Studies found that immigration agents only attempted to send home about one-fourth of the illegal immigrants they encountered in 2014, and 68,000 of those released back into our communities have criminal records.

When the administration puts criminal illegal immigrants back in our neighborhoods, it can have tragic results. Not only do these illegal immigrants take jobs from unemployed Americans, but they also pose a threat to the safety of innocent Americans.

These dangerous criminal illegal immigrants are likely to repeat their offenses. In 2012, the Congressional Research Service determined that over 26,000 illegal immigrants were rearrested almost 58,000 times. Suspected crimes included theft, robbery, and murder.

The President's immigration policy threatens the safety and lives of thousands of Americans.

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CLIMATE CHANGE

(Ms. BROWNLEY of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the severe impact of climate change across the United States.

On Sunday, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released a new report, laying out the ways that climate change has already impacted our economy.

Climate change threatens our coastal communities through ocean acidification and sea level rise. It threatens our big cities by making extreme weather events, like Hurricane Sandy, more frequent and more intense. It threatens all of us who rely on rain to water our crops or on snow for our drinking water.

California faces a future where less snow and earlier snowmelt will strain our already scarce water resources. 2014 is already one of the driest years in our State's history. Who knows what 2015 will bring?

I call on all of my colleagues to come together in a meaningful and bipartisan way to tackle climate change.

RYAN BUDGET PROTECTS DEFENSE

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, House Budget Chairman PAUL RYAN unveiled his vision of a budget, which will reduce Washington's out-of-control spending and will put our country back on a path to prosperity.

For years, the President has targeted our military in order to support his Big Government agenda. Last month, the administration announced plans to reduce the size of our Armed Forces to levels of those prior to World War II, putting American families at risk.

Chairman RYAN recognizes that our brave men and women in uniform, military families, and veterans are the ones who dedicate their lives to keeping us safe. His budget proposes to strengthen national security.

The primary function of the national government is to maintain a strong national defense. I appreciate Chairman PAUL RYAN for committing to ensuring the safety of every American at home and abroad.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

RYAN BUDGET

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the draconian